

July 31, 2002

Public Notice for 401 Water Quality Certification
Franz Valley Road Bridge, Improvement Project

Sonoma County

On June 10, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr.N.K. Hunt requesting Federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification and California Code of Regulations Water Quality Certification for the Frantz Valley Road Bridge Improvement Project in Sonoma County. The proposed project will result in impacts to waters of the state, associated with Franz Creek and Bidwell Creek Hydrologic Unit No.14.25.

The proposed project is located at 11080 Franz Valley Road, Calistoga, Sonoma County, California. The Assessor's Parcel Number is 120-100-001 and is located in Township 9 North, Range 7 West, Section 19. The purpose of the project is to replace an old irrigation diversion system, construct a single lane bridge and restore a portion of the creek. As the project is currently proposed, no tractor or excavators are proposed to work within the creek channel. Excavation will only take place from the top of the bank.

The project includes replacement of an old irrigation diversion system, with a below-surface well casing suction intake. Work will commence when the creek bed is dry, between June 15 and October 15, and the area to be disturbed is approximately 10 lineal feet of creek x 40 ft. wide, or 400 square feet. The well casing will be backfilled with 3/4 inch drain rock and wrapped with filter fabric. Approximately 3 cubic yards of native gravel shall be removed.

In addition, a single land bridge over Bidwell Creek is proposed. The bridge span is approximately 50 ft. long, with a 12-ft. wide deck. Conventional concrete footings will be formed and cast beyond the top of banks. As the work shall be done when the creek is dry, turbidity should not be an issue. Additionally, the downstream side of the work area will be fenced with filter fabric should a storm cause the creek to flow.

Lastly, this project would restore approximately 2,300 feet of the creek frontage. As proposed, the restoration project would remove the old concrete flashboard dam, footing, and supporting downstream concrete rubble. Various old pipes as well as the old corrugated riser on the bank are to be removed. A jackhammer will be used to dislodge and break up the large concrete pieces and at this time no tractor or excavator are proposed for working within the creek. One tree lies close to the centerline of the bridge and will be removed. Other native vegetation will not be removed; however, non-native plants will be eradicated and native trees and bushes will be reintroduced. This work will be carried out according to a restoration plan created by Circuit Rider Production, and under the supervision of Ms. Karen Gaffney.

The project applicant is in the process of applying for a 404 permit from the Army Corps of Engineers, but has yet been assigned a permit number or project manager. In addition, the applicant has applied for a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the Department of Fish and Game. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review is pending at this time.

The nearest receiving water is Bidwell Creek.

The project is scheduled to commence sometime between July 1 and October 15.

SKS:js/Franz Valley Road Bridge Replacement
Franz Valley Road Bridge 2 July 31, 2002